

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct a vote I made on Wednesday, October 30, on H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act. I mistakenly voted for this legislation, when I intended to vote against it. I have a longstanding record of supporting robust banking regulations that protect taxpayers from risky trading activity. Significantly altering provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act before those reforms have been fully implemented is premature. I wish to clearly state for the record that I did not intend to vote for this legislation, and I look forward to continuing working for strong banking protections for the American people.

CONGRATULATING PACIFICA INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago, Jose Camacho Tenorio, a visionary businessman of the Northern Mariana Islands, saw the need and the opportunity for a locally-owned insurance agency in our island community. In response, he founded Pacifica Insurance Underwriters.

1973 was an exciting time in our islands. The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America was in the midst of being negotiated. Commercial hotels were beginning to rise. Japanese tourists and investors were just starting to appear on our shores.

Yet we were still very much in our economic infancy. Insurance coverage of any sort was difficult to obtain. Many individuals and many developing businesses did not even appreciate the value of insurance. Under these circumstances, I took great commitment and some courage to make the financial investment necessary to form Pacifica Insurance Underwriters.

The late Mr. Tenorio, affectionately known as "Joeten," took up the challenge, and working with the family of a business associate, Pete Ada, Jr. of Guam, and with the Tokugoro Kuribayashi family of Japan, established Pacifica Insurance Underwriters and installed Joseph Screen, a former official of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as the company's first corporate executive.

Pacifica then teamed up with Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., a formidable Japanese insurer, and, as that company's general agent in the Northern Mariana Islands, began offering property and casualty, liability, and automobile insurance to businesses and individuals.

Over the years, Pacifica's business has grown: adding marine and workmen's compensation insurance, medical, dental, and vi-

sion plans, as well as term and whole life policies. Along the way, Pacifica entered into other general agency agreements with respected regional insurance companies Pacific Guardian Life and Century Insurance.

Throughout these four decades, Pacifica has lived up to the great responsibility of every insurer: Whether addressing a health issue, repairing a car, or recovering from natural or manmade disaster, when the need arises, they have been there for their customers.

In addition to writing thousands of policies annually across all lines of insurance, Pacifica has honored the legacy of its founders by becoming a valued corporate partner in our community. Still owned by its founding families and still run by Joeten's descendants, the company donates directly to schools, environmental groups, religious organizations, and other good causes. Pacifica makes substantial charitable donations through the Joeten Charitable Foundation. And its owners and employees individually lend their hands to a wide variety of community projects and events.

The Northern Mariana Islands has seen its share of economic highs and lows. In recent years, particularly, the insurance market has become more challenging, with increased competition, a decline in population, and a decreasing number of businesses. Through it all, Pacifica has remained consistent in its commitment to its employees, its customers, and our community.

We all feel proud when we witness a home-grown company with humble beginnings do well. So, please, join me in congratulating the owners and employees of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters on their fortieth anniversary, and in wishing them another forty years of success and growth.

SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE ON H. RES. 402

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Representatives MARCY KAPTUR and JIM GERLACH in rising today to support the passage of H. Res. 402, supporting the European aspirations of the people of the European Union's (EU) Eastern Partnership countries, and to express continued support for Ukraine as it moves closer to signing the EU Association Agreement.

In order for Ukraine to progress democratically and economically, it is imperative that the conditions of this agreement, as jointly initiated by the EU and Ukraine, are fully met—in law and in practice.

The critical November 28–29 Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania is quickly approaching, bringing with it the deadline for signing the Association Agreement. Accordingly, we urge the U.S. Department of State to advance all appropriate opportunities for cooperation with Ukraine to address the remaining required reforms, including electoral and rule of law reforms as well as issues related to selective justice, particularly the release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Along with the clear democratic and economic benefits, we believe these reforms, coupled

with international monitoring and oversight, provide the best opportunity to ensure free and fair elections in Ukraine in 2015 and beyond.

Consistent with our support for H. Res. 402, we applaud the EU's progress—much of it through the Eastern Partnership program—in helping to build democratic, prosperous, and stable societies throughout Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Building on that progress is in the national interest of the United States; consequently, we call on the U.S. Department of State to direct needed resources to help support Ukraine's European choice.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH PLAN ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3350, the so-called "Keep Your Health Plan Act of 2013." This bill is not a fix to the problems that have arisen because insurance companies are canceling plans that are insufficient to qualify under the new Affordable Care Act standards or are not viewed as economically viable and worth offering.

Instead, this bill will raise premiums in insurance marketplaces and undermine the overall market reforms that Obamacare is designed to remedy. Yesterday, President Obama offered a better solution than this bill, to address these issues.

As one of the few members that were here during the creation of Medicare, I remember first-hand the tactics used by those opposed to its creation. While this is a very different time and context in history, the vehemence of the opposition has its parallels.

Let me remind you that Medicare was once described by George H.W. Bush as "socialized medicine" and Ronald Reagan once stated that, "one of these days you and I are going to spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it once was like in America when men were free."

Today, Republicans have done little but resist and fear-monger in opposition to Obamacare's implementation. These conservatives see H.R. 3350 as "a metaphorical bullet to the gut of Obamacare." James Capretta, a conservative health care policy expert at the Heritage Foundation and American Enterprise Institute, described it as having an "end result that would be one more step toward fully reversing" what he describes as the "catastrophic mistake of Obamacare." And even Leader JOHN BOEHNER has argued that it is part of a larger strategy to "stop this law."

Although, Medicare has issues that need to be addressed, it has dramatically improved access to health care for America's seniors, leading to longer and healthier lives, reducing poverty, desegregating southern hospitals, and becoming one of the most popular government programs. From my own political experience, I can safely say that once in place and allowed to operate as designed, Obamacare will have a similarly positive affect.

Allowing H.R. 3350 to pass would be a step backward in the advances we have made in